

**FIRST 5
CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
JANUARY 2003 COMMISSION MEETING**

SACRAMENTO, CA

January 16, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the California Children and Families Commission was called to order by Chairman Rob Reiner at 9:15 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance: Vice Chair Kim Belshé, Sandra Gutierrez, Lou Vismara, Ex-Officio Genie Chough, and Chairman Rob Reiner.

3. Approval of Minutes – November 21, 2002

Minutes from the November 21, 2002 Commission meeting were approved.

4. Chairman's Report

- Chairman Reiner thanked Kim Belshé for serving as Chair of the Commission in his absence the past few months.
- School Readiness Media Launch
 - Staff has been planning a large-scale media launch of our School Readiness Initiative, which will entail holding a series of press conferences in multiple cities throughout the state, showcasing our School Readiness Initiative in action.
 - Chairman Reiner would like to coordinate this launch with Governor Davis.
 - The launch will likely occur in the next two months.
- Bay Area Universal Health Care Media Launch
 - On January 23rd, three Bay Area County Commissions (San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara) will be holding a regional press conference announcing Universal Health Care Coverage for children from birth through 18 years.
 - Chairman Reiner will be joining the County Commissions and their partners at this event.
 - Anyone interested in attending this Bay Area event should contact Nicole Kasabian-Evans, Communications Director for the State Commission, at 916/323-0056 for details.

- LA Universal Preschool
 - Last week, First 5 Los Angeles named Nancy Daly Riordan and former State Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg as co-chairs of their Universal Preschool advisory committee.
 - The committee, which will also be comprised of community representatives, will help guide the creation of the Commission's Universal Preschool plan.
 - Chairman Reiner noted also that Karen Hill-Scott has been selected by First 5 LA to lead the development and implementation of the plan.
- February Retreat
 - The Commission's annual planning meeting is scheduled for February 20-21 at the Burbank Hilton, near the airport.
 - The purpose of the planning retreat is to:
 - Review our strategic direction
 - Plan for the next three years
 - Review our financial situation
 - Review our current and future investments
- Master Plan Legislation
 - AB 56 and SB 7 are identical School Readiness omnibus bills that would:
 - Expand state-funded School Readiness programs
 - Provide voluntary access to Universal Preschool
 - Implement mandatory, full-day kindergarten
 - The State Commission will be suggesting amendments and additions to these bills. Among other things, provisions for developmental screenings will be proposed for addition to the bills, which would round out the major School Readiness recommendations in the Master Plan.
 - A bill focused on the Personnel recommendations in the Master Plan will be introduced later this month. It will include the Master Plan recommendation to have more rigorous education and certification requirements in licensed child care facilities, which helps to justify increased compensation for staff in facilities. That bill will also include K-12, secondary, and post-secondary recommendations.
- On a national note, Chairman Reiner will address the National Governor's Association (which has in its membership 22 newly elected state governors) and talk about implementing universal preschool. He pointed out that this is another example of the work of the California Children and Families Commission and its county partners serving as a model for the rest of the nation.
- Chairman Reiner expressed appreciation and acknowledgement for Marie Young and Fran Kipnis, who are leaving Packard Foundation. He noted that Packard provided the bridge financing for the initial work of the California Children and Families Commission.

5. Executive Director's Report

- Jane Henderson, Executive Director of the State Commission, reported that a French preschool tour she was sponsored to attend last year culminated in a conference in Chicago that she recently attended. A comprehensive conference paper, to which Dr. Henderson contributed, is now available: "Equal from the Start" at www.frenchamerican.org.
- Kentucky Governor Patton is heading up a special National Governor's Association committee on school readiness. This is a signal of the growing interest in the work of the California Children and Families Commission.
- A full-day training session sponsored by the Packard Foundation, First 5 San Mateo, and First 5 Los Angeles will take place on April 21 to focus on planning for implementation of universal preschool. States that have also moved forward with universal preschool programs will share their ideas: New York, Illinois, Georgia, and Massachusetts. The State Commission is working to get information to county commissions on implementation strategies.
- Media Campaign – Timeline
 - Over the past few months, the State Commission and the subcommittee of county commission representatives has been working with its media consultants on the development of creative and scripts for our public engagement media campaign.
 - This will be the first time the Commission delves into the promotion of preschool as a critical element of a child's educational achievement.
 - Currently, filming of the ads is scheduled for February so they are ready for airing in March. There will also be a parent education and tobacco cessation component to the campaign.
- CBO Program/Gap Funding
 - An overview of the State Commission's Community-Based Organization (CBO) Outreach program and results to-date was provided at the Commission's November meeting. \$600,000 had been set aside to allow the Commission to fill any gaps (areas/populations not reached by the CBO program) that may exist.
 - An analysis of funding to date has been completed and staff is identifying the target populations to determine the best course of action for distributing the remaining funds.
 - An overview of the gap funding process will be provided at the Commission's March meeting.
- Advisory Committee on Diversity Update
 - The Advisory Committee on Diversity will be meeting on January 27 in Sacramento. This meeting will primarily focus on the Implementation Plan for the Principles on Equity. A draft of the Implementation Plan has been developed and is presently being reviewed by the Committee. It is anticipated

that after the next meeting of the Advisory Committee the draft will be ready to share with the California Children and Families Association and others for broader input and discussion. The Implementation Plan will be brought to the State Commission as a discussion item during the March 2003 meeting with action planned for May.

- Dr. Henderson indicated that the draft plan is based on the Commission's operational structure and will be a tremendous asset to the Commission's work.

6. CCAFA Report

- Chairman Reiner acknowledged and expressed appreciation for outgoing President of the California Children and Families Association, Patricia Wheatley, who served in that capacity for the past year.
- Mark Friedman, newly elected President of the California Children and Families Association, was then introduced and gave this report.
- Many programs are being cut or are in danger of being cut in this State Budget process. The suffering of affected departments means children and families get hurt. CCAFA's focus is to be helpful through the budget challenges.
- CCAFA has held two meetings for county commissioners to develop a commitment to the Prop 10 vision, education about the importance of kids 0-5 and the need to be cognizant about possible supplantation.
- At the State Commission's planning retreat in February, the CCAFA wants to focus on the Commission's current priorities rather than on introducing new initiatives for Commission consideration.
- CCAFA is surveying counties on what is being done locally on anti-tobacco efforts. There is a sense of collaboration and partnership in this area.
- CCAFA is working with State Commission staff in planning the county commission statewide conference, scheduled for April, and is working on technical assistance as well.
- Sherry Novick, Executive Director of CCAFA, presented to the National Association of Counties in November.

7. State Budget Update

Commission staff presented a summary and overview of key areas of the fiscal year 2003/04 state budget. Staff focused on specific budget proposals that could impact First 5 California programs. Discussion focused on identified state program cuts, or state tax increases, their possible impact on existing First 5 state and local programs, and potential strategies.

8. Technical Assistance for School Readiness

The Commission approved the continuation of technical assistance for School Readiness Programs by providing funding to UCLA's Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities for up to one additional year at the level of \$675,000. This technical assistance effort, which provides resources/tools, training, and collaboration/networking

for all School Readiness Programs statewide, is strongly supported by CCAFA as evidenced by the county commission letters.

9. First 5 California Annual Report

The Commission approved the 2001/02 Annual Report to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature on January 31, 2003.

10. CCFC Incompatible Activities Statement

The Commission approved staff's use of a proposed Incompatible Activities Statement (IAS), as required by statute. State staff who file a Statement of Economic Interest, Form 700, are required complete and have on file an IAS. The purpose of the IAS is to ensure that employees do not engage in activities that are incompatible/inconsistent with their state duties.

11. Kit for New Parents Project

The Commission approved release of a request for proposals to continue production and dissemination of the Kit for New Parents, for an approximately three-year supply. The contractor will manage the comprehensive Kit project, including printing, procuring and fulfilling components of the Kit, and providing content review, design changes and delivering training on use of the Kit. The Commission also approved production of additional Kits and fulfillment within existing expenditure authority in a current contract.

12. California 2-1-1 System Participation

The Commission was briefed by Pat Wheatley, past President of the CCAFA, on a proposal to fund County Commission participation in the development and deployment of the national 2-1-1 system in California. The Commission raised several questions regarding the effort and recommended that State Commission participation be further discussed in future Commission meetings.

13. Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs Focus Area and Mental Health Focus Area

The Commission discussed a proposed \$15 million investment in a First 5 California Special Needs Project to support children with disabilities and other special needs including social/emotional needs. **The proposal addresses two focus areas identified by the State Commission: the Children with Disabilities and other Special Needs Focus Area and the Mental Health Focus Area.** The combination of these two focus areas was considered with significant input and discussion. It was determined that merging the two focus areas would be beneficial to maximize early identification of conditions that are often overlooked or difficult to diagnose, improve connections to services for children with existing disabilities, and provide services to children in need of supports but who have no current diagnosis or eligibility for an existing categorical program.

While the field has many resources in dedicated and knowledgeable service providers and family members and funding provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, there still are needs and developmental work to accomplish in better serving young children with disabilities and other special needs. The proposed project would be a unique contribution in this arena. Building on the School Readiness Initiative, this project will test a reconfigured service delivery approach that provides families' access to a spectrum and continuum of services appropriate to their child's individual special needs. Screening strategies will be developed and provided to all children and families within the boundaries of selected School Readiness Initiative sites. Other services offered will reflect a range of intensities, from those that promote emotional health to early intervention to treatment strategies. These services will include interventions for young children and consultation and training for child care providers, teachers and others who work directly with children and families.

Target Population: The target population for the First 5 California Special Needs Project is children birth to five years of age who live in communities targeted by the School Readiness Initiative and are: 1) protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); or 2) have or are at risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require developmental, health, mental health, and related services and/or supports of a type or amount beyond that required generally.

Families whose children are eligible for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will benefit from early identification, IDEA-mandated services, and First 5 California supplemental and community-wide services offered at selected project sites. Families whose children are not eligible for IDEA but who require services, especially for social/emotional and behavioral issues, may receive services funded largely by First 5 California.

Project Components: The proposed First 5 California Special Needs Project components include:

- 1) Local Demonstration Sites at selected School Readiness Initiative Programs**
Proposed Funding: Up to \$8 million total over 4 years (plus matching funds up to another \$8 million)
- 2) Statewide Project Coordination and Training**
Proposed Funding: Up to \$3.5 million total over 5 years
- 3) Program Evaluation**
Proposed Funding: Up to \$1 million total over 5 years
- 4) Infant, Preschool, and Family Mental Health Initiative (IPFMHI)**
Proposed Funding: \$2.5 million over the next 2 years to continue the initiative

Expected Project Outcomes: The First 5 California Special Needs Project and the Infant, Preschool and Family Mental Health Initiative will focus on four major emphasis areas to achieve specific project outcomes. These will be required emphasis areas for the First 5 California Special Needs demonstration sites and include:

1. Universal access to screening for early identification/diagnosis and referrals for physical and developmental issues (including social/emotional/behavioral).

2. Improved access to and utilization of screening, assessment, services and supports through coordination and reallocation of existing resources and building of new resources.
3. Inclusion of young children with disabilities and other special needs in appropriate typical child care and development and other community settings with provision of necessary supports to help the child succeed in that environment.
4. Evaluation to identify effective practices and to improve programs.

During its February 2003 meeting, the State Commission will continue discussing this project for funding.

14. Legislative Item

Staff presented for discussion legislation review and advocacy criteria for identifying legislation for the Commission's involvement. The options included criteria related to major Commission goals and objectives, the School Readiness goals contained in the Master Plan for Education, the Focus Areas adopted by the Commission last February, the goals of the Commission's Strategic Plan, support for anti-tobacco efforts, and impact on Proposition 10 revenues and the Commission's Principles on Equity. Additional discussion on this process will take place in February 2003.

15. Matching Funds for Retention Incentive Programs for Early Care and Education Providers

The Commission was presented with the first year findings of the 3-year study of the Matching Funds for Retention Incentives for Early Care and Education Providers Project. This was the first step in discussing the continuance of the Matching Funds Project, which is scheduled to end on June 30, 2003. Initial findings regarding rates of training and retention are positive, but results are limited by the difficulties inherent in the first year of implementation of any program. More comprehensive reports will be available in years 2 and 3 of the study.

16. School Readiness Initiative

The Commission was updated on progress in the School Readiness Initiative. The Commission was provided with information on the School Readiness Matching Funds application process. First 5 CCFC received School Readiness Matching Funds applications in mid-December, and the statewide application review is scheduled for late January. To date, the School Readiness Initiative has 100 School Readiness Programs in process, representing the collaborative work of 40 First 5 county commissions. Additionally, the Commission received copies of the school readiness parent and teacher surveys, with an update on the pilot testing of these tools in 10 counties.

17. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.